



Lesley White

Lesley's work is a collection of witnessed or experienced events in the lives of western cowboys. Her art reflects the daily challenges they face, the physical labour endured, their connection to family, the land and their animals. It also speaks to the knowledge that survival depends on cooperating, appreciating and respecting nature.

Lesley's connection to western lifestyle and values motivates and inspires her as an artist. She is constantly exploring her expressive potential and has chosen oil paint as the medium that best suits her distinctive, realistic style. Imperfections in natural elements like wood, leather and textiles are a challenge she embraces – bringing their essence to the viewer's senses. Perhaps Lesley's most valuable artistic quality is her ability to show the viewer what caught her eye and compelled her to share it with others.

Lesley's painting, *You Go First!*, was selected to join Ducks Unlimited Canada's 2008 National Art Portfolio. This limited edition series is only available through Ducks Unlimited Canada fundraising initiatives. The money raised through this program supports Ducks Unlimited Canada's on-the-ground wetland conservation work, scientific research and education programs.



The Inspiration for *You Go First!*

Shooting reference for this piece was almost as fun as painting it. I spent an afternoon with a lab litter of seven, all yellow save one. Trying to get them to pose or do anything in particular at this age is impossible. So, I just scattered some props around the field and sat back, watching and waiting for photo opportunities. Eventually, several ideas started to develop.

In my original design for this piece, there were only two puppies. When I felt it lacked interest, I decided to invent a third peeking around the corner of the box. This addition transformed the composition. I had now captured the feelings that stirred me while watching them, the essence of puppies – innocent, curious, playful and mischievous.

Additional work by Lesley White

The western flavoured work of Lesley White is extremely well known across Canada and the United States. Her paintings Crossing the Cottonwood, Pooped, and At the Summit have all been featured previously in Ducks Unlimited Canada's National Art Portfolios.

